

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBEL GOITOM,

Defendant.

CASE NO. CR17-0132-JCC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the Defendant's unopposed motion to seal Exhibit 1 to his sentencing memorandum (Dkt. No. 114).

The First Amendment protects the public's right of access to criminal trials. *See, e.g., Globe Newspaper Co. v. Super. Ct. for Norfolk Cnty.*, 457 U.S. 596, 606 (1982). The public also has a common law right to inspect and copy public records, including those from judicial proceedings. *See Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978). But these rights are not absolute. They must yield when (1) sealing a document serves a compelling interest, (2) that is substantially likely to be harmed if the document is not sealed, and (3) there are no less restrictive alternatives for protecting the interest. *See United States v. Doe*, 870 F.3d 991, 998 (9th Cir. 2017). Because the Exhibit contains Defendant's personal medical information, sealing it serves a compelling interest that is substantially likely to be harmed if not sealed, and no less restrictive alternatives would protect the interest. Accordingly, the Court finds good cause to seal

1 the document.

2 Defendant's motion (Dkt. No. 114) is GRANTED; Exhibit 1 (Dkt. No. 116) shall remain
3 sealed.

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5 DATED this 14th day of March 2022.

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9 John C. Coughenour
10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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